SB 1874
RELATING TO KANEHOE BAY

Senate Committees on
Planning, Land and Water Use
Tourism, Recreation and Transportation

Joint Public Hearing - February 11, 1993
3:00 P.M., Room 405 SOT

By
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SB 1874 would amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes to create a Kaneohe Bay Regional Council to implement the Kaneohe Bay master plan and to oversee all management and recreational regulatory activities relating to the bay.

Our statement on this bill does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Creation of such a council was a recommendation of the Kaneohe Bay Task Force, and we fully support the intent of this measure to the degree that it is coincident with the hard work and accomplishments of the task force. However, we note that the transfer to the council of ocean recreation management responsibilities and authority presently residing within the DLNR was not a recommendation of the Task Force. We suggest that such a transfer may be unwise, in that the staff, resources, and particularly enforcement capability of the proposed council would most likely prove inadequate. However, other functions of the proposed council are appropriate and highly constructive, and we concur with all other provisions of the measure. We note that the appropriation amount has been left blank, and given the current fiscal constraints, it may be difficult to fund this program at this time. However, the long term savings achievable through community-based management may prove sufficient to offset start-up costs, and we urge that this measure be allowed to proceed.